



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



CHARLES EPPERSON COX.

PIONEER DAYS OF MAJOR RICHARD RUE COX.

By CHARLES E. COX.

Joseph and Mary Cox settled in Illinois in 1837. John Cox and Richard Rue, my father's grandfathers, were soldiers in the Revolutionary War, fighting in a Virginia regiment. They were among the early settlers in Kentucky but soon emigrated to Wayne County, Indiana. Richard Rue was under George Rogers Clark in his conquest of the Northwest territory. LaRue County was part of Hardin and was named for him. In this county Lincoln was born and Hodgenville where the cabin in which he was born is located has been made historical. Richard LaRue subsequently dropped the La from his name. Richard Rue and George Holman having been captured by the Indians on one occasion and carried through Wayne County, Indiana, were so impressed with the lands there that they declared if they were ever set free alive they would return to that country to settle. In Kentucky my father's father, Joseph Cox, married Mary, the daughter of Richard Rue, and there my father, Richard Rue Cox, was born—the first white child born in Wayne County. About 1828 the family went to Montgomery County. There my father married Sarah L. Epperson on December 13, 1832.

My grandfather, the father of Sarah L. Epperson, was the son of David Epperson who fought in the Revolution in Virginia with his seven sons—Charles being the youngest in the family. A story is told of him that after his father and brothers had been in the service for some time, all the regular supply of wool had been used for the father and brothers' clothing. The boy's mother, Sarah Epperson, with the pioneer woman's resourcefulness and pluck, sheared one of the sheep in the dead of winter, carded and spun yarn and knit the socks for her youngest soldier boy. An old blanket

she sewed about the shorn sheep who had given its bit to our country during its first war in the cause of Freedom.

After the marriage of my father and mother they worked three years clearing a timber farm. Here I was born in a log cabin among the primeval forest trees, on Sept. 28, 1833, the night of the phenomenon of the falling stars. Stories of the richness of the soil of the prairies and the ease of cultivating them, led my parents again to undertake the pioneer's fortunes in a new home. After selling the cleared farm and spending a year at Lafayette, we set sail in a prairie schooner with five yoke of oxen, a cow and heifer and a few sheep. A few pieces of furniture were taken with us. This journey, camping at night and traveling slowly along in the day, made a deep impression on my mind. Although only four years old at that time, I clearly remember the trip, the oxen's names which made themselves into a rhyme in my mind—

Buck and Berry, Duke and Don
Dick and Derry, Tom and Jerry
Bill and John.

We arrived at Mercer County, Illinois, the first of June 1837. Father staked out his claim. The big wagon box with its arched white cover father set under a big bur oak tree and there we lived while father broke up ten acres of the virgin earth to plant sod corn.

As soon as our bread for the next year was assured by the planting of the corn, father cut logs and built a log cabin. There was not a nail used in it. The roof was clapboards rived out. The chimney was made of sticks and clay. The floor was hewed puncheons. The door was hung on wooden hinges and was fastened with a wooden latch of which the string was always out. Father then fenced forty acres with rails and continued improving the farm. The nearest neighbor was miles away. Our nearest towns, where we bought crude farming implements and a few groceries were Rock Island and New Boston, 25 miles away. The railroad did not reach there until 1853 when the Rock Island Railroad was built. My mother made our clothes out of cloth that she spun and wove on a loom. The dye was brown walnut. We lived in the cabin, enlarged as we needed it, until a saw mill was

built. With the new source of lumber we built a farm house made mostly of black walnut.

Settlers came steadily and took up claims about us. Each was allowed 160 acres. My father, being one of the earliest settlers, was able to help the new comers with meat and feed and flour and seed. The traditional hospitality of the west grew naturally out of these times when life was dependent on the kindness and generosity of neighbors. My father's greatest pleasure was to help establish the new comers.

Farming was primitive, tools were scarce and rough and transportation was difficult. At that time there were few industrial centers, even in the East. Wheat sold for 25c per bushel, dressed hogs for \$1.50 per hundred, exchanged for store goods. To get money one hauled wheat 175 miles to Chicago and sold it for 50c a bushel. Manufactured articles were hard for us to get. Most of the home industries were carried on at the farms. My father was woodman, farmer, blacksmith, carpenter, miller, teacher, cattle grower, tanner and shoe-maker. My mother did the carding, spinning, weaving, dying and sewing of cloth for our clothes and blankets, the grinding of corn, curing of meat and vegetables for the winter, and dairying, as well as the pioneer woman's regular household duties, which included cooking for any settlers who might be passing our cabin on their way farther west. The new settlers brought with them various trades and were able to exchange home manufactured articles with each other.

After many generations of this pioneer life, our ancestors became exceedingly resourceful and it is to their habit of creating necessary articles from raw materials with simple tools that is due our great industrial development and the inventive genius that is our peculiar birthright. As the home of today has lost the industries which were of such value in the education of the children of pioneers, I believe that the schools of today must supply more than the classical studies if we are to retain our national ability to handle the new problems which face us—otherwise we shall soon have a nation of clerks not of masters of industry.

My father was County Commissioner in the years before the township organization became possible. After that sys-

tem was established, he was Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. He was Justice of the Peace for thirty-five years and Deacon of the Baptist Church for forty years. He received a commission as Major in the Illinois Militia under Governor Carlin, countersigned by Lyman Trumbull, Secretary of State. At the breaking out of the Civil War he was asked by Governor Yates to raise and command a regiment. His health did not permit him to do so, but he assisted in raising two regiments.

Four of his sons were in the Civil War—two in the 9th Illinois Infantry, one in the 11th Illinois Cavalry and one in the Provost Marshal Department. Augustus B. Cox of the 9th Illinois Infantry was taken prisoner and died in Andersonville prison. My father and mother had five sons and two daughters. Two of my brothers are living—Hiram S. Cox and Dr. J. Neil Cox. My father's brothers settled in Rock Island County. Each year the descendants of Joseph and Mary Rue Cox hold a reunion on Campbell's Island in the Mississippi at Rock Island. There are usually well over a hundred present. I am the eldest member of the family and am, therefore, the President of the organization. My father died November 11, 1877 at Oxford, Illinois, age 73 years. My mother died February 4, 1864 at Oxford, Illinois, age 56 years.

At the last Cox family reunion August 21, 1918, a service flag was presented to the President of the Association, containing seventeen stars.

CHARLES EPPERSON COX—BROUGHT TO ILLINOIS 1837.

In the preceding paragraphs I have outlined the life of my father and his ancestors in this Country and my childhood experience under pioneer conditions in Illinois. I was born in Montgomery County, Indiana, September 28, 1833, the day of the phenomenon of the falling stars. When I was four years old my father and mother moved to Mercer County, Illinois. Here I grew up on the farm until I was twenty-two. My education was acquired at the village school and two years at the Academy in Rock Island. I taught country school for two winters. On March 15, 1855 I married Narcissa Woods at Galesburg, daughter of William J. Woods.

She was a graduate of Knox College Academy and had taught school one year.

After our marriage, I embarked in the mercantile business in Oxford, Illinois, where my eldest son, Eugene Richard Cox, was born. In 1857 I went to Page County, Iowa, where a new college town was being established. Our journey was by steamboat from Burlington to St. Louis, then to St. Joseph on the Missouri River. At College Springs I built and stocked a store and built a house. In 1860 I sold out and made a trip to Colorado. While I was on this journey, Lincoln was nominated. There were no telegraphs, telephones or railroads. Majors and Russel were running a pony express from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California, making the regular run in eleven days. The run carrying the news of Lincoln's election was made in eight days. I had calculated the time when the pony messenger would pass my train. As the time approached, I remained near the road watching for him to appear. A cloud of dust announced his coming and I stood close to the edge of the road. As he passed, I shouted "Who is nominated?" He replied, "Lincoln", waving his hat, not slackening his pace. We had been traveling over a long stretch of sandy road where there was no water. A great number of settlers going west had stopped to make camp by the Platte River. A few of us decided to hold a rally for Lincoln whose nomination we had desired very seriously. The Black Hawk Mill was being transported across the plains by Majors & Russel on a train of twenty-five wagons and three hundred oxen. At the camp of the Mill train we held our rally. A horseman with a bugle was the assembly call. Five hundred people came together from their camps and joined in songs and speeches in praise of our western nominee for President. In such a group of travelers there were sure to be many men whose names were later familiar to the middle west.

I returned to Iowa to vote for Lincoln. Our little town was on the Missouri border. There was a good deal of war agitation and Governor Kirkwood ordered a militia regiment to protect the border. War begun. Colonel Motherhead of Missouri was raising a regiment for Paice's army. Our regiment of mounted men was ordered out to attack him. We

followed him about fifty miles. He surrendered with 1,600 men. This was in 1861. That fall we moved back to Illinois and I was appointed auditor in the Provost Marshal's Department. My duty was to pass upon the claims against the government for recruiting, subsistence and transportation. Stationed at Springfield I held this office to the end of the war.

After the war, knowing from my boyhood experience how necessary was improved agricultural machinery, I went into that business, later going to Quincy where I manufactured corn planters for twenty years.

During all my life I have been interested in politics—not in holding office myself, but in helping to place able men to represent my community. For several years I was chairman of the Adams County Republican Committee. In 1880 I laid out the enumerator districts and selected the enumerators under John A. Chestnut, the Supervisor of the census.

Governor Cullom appointed me on the national executive committee for the western waterways. After years of work we aroused public sentiment in regard to the necessity of water transportation. Thos. J. Henderson, Chairman of the River and Harbor committee in Congress was a good friend to our western development. Through him I succeeded in having \$175,000 appropriated for the improvement of the Quincy harbor. I worked to secure the location of the Soldiers' Home at Quincy and succeeded in obtaining the passage of a bill in the legislature allowing Quincy to levy a special assessment for water and light at a time when the city was bankrupt and had been without both light and water for several months. In 1892 we moved to Chicago where my son Eugene had been in business for some years and lived there until the children were all married or had gone elsewhere to reside.

Our family consisted of three sons and three daughters—The eldest, Eugene, lives in New York. He married Lillian, daughter of General S. B. N. Young of Washington. Sarah Marilla married Waldo Peck Adams. They live in Elizabeth, New Jersey. Alice Clover married Philip Walter Henry and lives in New York. Robert Lincoln died as a youth. Charles Sellon served in the Spanish war first in the 8th U. S. Cavalry

and then in the 11th Cavalry afterward joining the regular army in which he served in the Philippines for many years. He has retired from the army and now lives in Manilla where he has, for several years, been engaged in newspaper work. Narcissa married Frank A. Vanderlip and lives in New York.

My wife's inspiration, intelligent, broad-minded and public spirited as she was, influenced not only her own family, but all those who knew her. Her rare wisdom, insight and spirituality impressed themselves on our children so that they constantly refer in their larger environment to the wise teaching of their mother during their childhood and youth. She died in Chicago, March 6, 1900 and is buried in Quincy, facing the beautiful river that she loved.

COX FAMILY IN FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REUNION.

One Hundred Members of Association Gather at Campbell's Island for Dinner and Program.

Members of the Cox Family association to the number of 100 assembled at Campbell's Island in the Mississippi river near Rock Island, August 15, 1917, for the 15th annual reunion. Ideal weather conditions added greatly to the enjoyment of the day, every detail of the prearranged program being carried out with great success. A banquet dinner was served at 1 o'clock, one long table at which all were seated at once, being laid beneath the trees. Suspended above the center of the table was a large American flag, members of the family thus showing their patriotism and love of country. After dinner, in the absence of Charles E. Cox of New York, who is president of the association, and James Frank Cox of Alpha, Pleasant F. Cox of Rock Island was chosen presiding officer and toast master. Impromptu talks were given by various members of the family and aside from giving many reminiscences, were full of patriotism and loyalty to their country. Those who responded with toasts were John S. Cox of Chicago, John Wesley Cox of Des Moines, Dr. J. Neil Cox of Rio, Miss Mary Cox of Plainview, Texas, Clinton Cox of Alpha, J. J. Cox and A. B. Cox of Moline. Grandma Arcularius of Hampton, who is nearing her 95th birthday and who has attended every reunion since the

organization of the association, gave a pleasing talk which was greatly enjoyed. Miss Daisy Cox of Alpha and Mrs. Henrietta Jones of Davenport were other speakers. Lee Cox, son of Mr. and Mrs. Irvin S. Cox of Moline, who has enlisted in the marine service and leaves Friday for Los Angeles, and three sons of Samuel Cox of Burchard, Neb., who have already joined the service, and Allen O'Connor of Moline, who leaves soon to enlist in the marine service, were honored for their show of patriotism. Probably twenty families represented in the association have sons who expect to enter the great war, many of them being sons and grandsons of those who wore the blue in 61-65. Another interesting feature of the day was the celebration of the 10th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. John Shunning of Milan, Mrs. Shunning before her marriage having been Miss Nellie Cox of Sears, whose birthday anniversary was also on this day. In behalf of the association John S. Cox presented Mr. and Mrs. Shunning with a beautiful casserole. They responded expressing their appreciation of the gift. A letter from Charles E. Cox, president of the association, was read by the secretary, Walter Cox, who also read the minutes of the last annual reunion. Officers and committees were reappointed for next year's reunion.

Guests from out of the city other than from the quad cities and neighboring towns were: Mr. and Mrs. John S. Cox, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Cox, Walter E. Cox, Thomas P. Cox, all of Chicago; John Wesley Cox of Des Moines, Dr. John Neil Cox and Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Gladys Cox-Gentry of Rio; Miss Mary Cox of Plainview, Texas; C. C. Cox and son Duane and daughter Marjorie of Alpha; Miss Daisy Cox, Mrs. Jennie McLaughlin and daughters Cleo and Irma, Mrs. Emerald Cox and daughter Myrtle and son William, all of Alpha; Mrs. Esther Mattison of Des Moines; Mr. and Mrs. Jones and Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Stewart of Davenport.

The company remained at the island until late in the evening, none wishing to leave the happy gathering. Lunch was served at the supper hour and the day proved to be one of the most enjoyable ever arranged by the family.

The Cox family is one of the oldest and largest in the county and the reunion each year is an event to which each member looks forward with much pleasure.